

**TO REDUCE ASTHMA RATES AND ASSOCIATED
COSTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.**

SECTION 2. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17H the following section:

Section 17I. The commission shall provide to an active or retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the commission. As used in this section, “certified asthma health care provider” shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

When coverage is provided through a nonprofit hospital service corporation or a nonprofit medical corporation, outpatient self-management training and education shall be provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the hospital service plan or medical service agreement or affiliated with a provider participating with the hospital service plan or medical service agreement. When coverage is provided through a health maintenance contract, outpatient self-management training and education shall be provided by a certified

asthma health care provider participating with the health maintenance contract or affiliated with a provider participating with the health maintenance contract. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the commission to contract with a certified asthma health care provider who is not already under contract with the commission.

The benefits provided in this section shall meet all other terms and conditions within an insurance plan. Coverage shall not be reduced or eliminated due to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 3. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section IOD, as so appearing, the following section:

Section 10E. The division shall provide coverage for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the division or affiliated with a provider participating with the division. As used in this section, "certified asthma health care provider" shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

SECTION 4. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 47X, as so appearing, the following section:

Section 47Y. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 108 which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, and any group blanket policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the

insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth, shall provide benefits for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded by the policy, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the insurance company or affiliated with a provider participating with the insurance company. As used in this section, "certified asthma health care provider" shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

The benefits provided in this section shall meet all other terms and conditions within a policy. Coverage shall not be reduced or eliminated due to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 5. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 8V, as so appearing, the following section:

Section 8W. A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth, shall provide benefits to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded by the contract, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the

purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the nonprofit service corporation or affiliated with a provider participating with the nonprofit service corporation. As used in this section, "certified asthma health care provider" shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a nonprofit service corporation to contract with a certified asthma health care provider who is not already under contract with such nonprofit service corporation.

The benefits provided in this section shall meet all other terms and conditions within a subscription certificate. Hospital service plans shall not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 6. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking inserting after section 4Y, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 4Z. A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth, shall provide benefits to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth coverage for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded by the medical service agreement, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating

with the medical service agreement participating with the medical service corporation or affiliated with a provider participating with the medical service corporation. As used in this section, "certified asthma health care provider" shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a medical service corporation to contract with a certified asthma health care provider who is not already under contract with such medical service corporation.

The benefits provided in this section shall meet all other terms and conditions within a subscription certificate. Medical service agreements shall not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 7. Chapter 1766 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4Q, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:Section 4R. Any individual or group health maintenance contract delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the

commonwealth, shall provide, as set forth in section 47Y of chapter 175, coverage for the following items if such items are within a category of benefits or services for which coverage is otherwise afforded by the contract, have been prescribed by a health care professional legally authorized to prescribe such items and if the items are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of asthma. Such items shall include, but shall not be limited to: peak flow monitors, spacers for inhalers, special bedding designed to reduce allergic reactions including but not limited to pillow cases and mattress encasings, and supplies and equipment approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the purposes or which they have been prescribed and asthma management training, dual prescriptions for rescue inhalers, and education when provided by a certified asthma health care provider participating with the health maintenance organization or affiliated with a provider participating with the health maintenance organization. As used in this section, "certified asthma health care provider" shall mean a licensed health care professional with expertise in asthma or an individual certified as an asthma educator by a nationally

recognized certification program, including but not limited to National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a health maintenance organization to contract with a certified asthma health care provider who is not already under contract with such health maintenance organization.

The benefits provided in this section shall meet all other terms and conditions within a health maintenance contract. Health maintenance contracts shall not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.